

Claims

1. In a protective garment for a firefighter, a rescue worker, a chemical worker, or another worker working in a hazardous environment, in which the protective garment may become torn, snagged, or penetrated accidentally, an improvement wherein the protective garment has plural layers, each of which is impervious to liquids, gases, or both where not penetrated, said layers being not laminated to one another but being detached from one another, except at their boundaries, so that said layers, in regions bounded by said seams, provide a wearer of the protective garment with redundant protection.

10 2. In a protective garment for a firefighter, a rescue worker, a chemical worker, or another worker working in a hazardous environment, in which the protective garment may become torn, snagged, or penetrated accidentally, an improvement wherein the protective garment has plural layers, each of which is impervious to liquids, gases, or both where not penetrated, said layers being not laminated to one another but being detached from one another, except at seams at their boundaries and where said layers are quilted, so that said layers, in regions bounded by said seams, provide a wearer of the protective garment with redundant protection.

15 3. The improvement of claim 1, wherein each of said layers comprises a polymeric film or a sublayer of a polymeric film laminated to another sublayer, which may be a polymeric film.

20 4. The improvement of claim 2, wherein each of said layers comprises a polymeric film or a sublayer of a polymeric film laminated to another sublayer, which may be a polymeric film.

7. The improvement of claim 1, 2, 3, or 4, wherein spaces containing air only are defined by said layers, in regions bounded by said seams.
8. The improvement of claim 1, 2, 3, or 4, wherein spaces containing an absorbent material are defined by said layers, in regions bounded by said seams.